

1 **In the Claims:**

2 Claims 5 through 35 have been renumbered as Claims 4 through 34.

3 Please amend Claims 1, 2, and renumbered Claims 4 through 34.

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1. (Once Amended) A warning system for a lift which is used in conjunction with a vehicle having an opening and a floor, the lift including a platform, the warning system comprising:
- a. means for sensing a threshold zone adjacent to said vehicle opening and transmitting a threshold output signal when an object moves into the threshold zone;
 - b. means for determining the position of said platform and transmitting a position output signal; and
 - c. means for generating a warning signal based on the conditions of said threshold output signal and said position output signal;
 - d. whereby said warning system provides warning when an object moves into said threshold zone while said platform is [in said] at an unsafe level.
2. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said sensing means includes a sensor and a reflector, [where] wherein the sensor emits an infrared beam to the reflector.

- [5] 4. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said sensing means comprises a passive infrared device.
- [6] 5. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim [5] 4 wherein said passive infrared device comprises a motion sensor.
- [7] 6. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said sensing means comprises a radar reflection device operating by HF radio waves.
- [8] 7. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said sensing means comprises an ultrasonic reflection device operating by ultrasonic sounds.

[9] 8. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said sensing means comprises a pressure sensitive mat.

[10] 9. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said sensing means comprises a pressure sensitive strip.

[11] 10. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said sensing means comprises a pressure sensitive bladder.

[12] 11. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the condition of said threshold output signal transmitted by said sensing means changes when said sensing means senses an object crossing a boundary of said threshold zone.

[13] 12. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said means for determining the position of said platform ^{transmitting} ~~and transmits~~ said [platform] position output signal when said platform is [in an] at said unsafe level comprises a cam assembly including a limit switch and a cam wheel.

[14] 13. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said means for determining the position of said platform ^{transmitting a position output signal} ~~and stops transmitting~~ said [platform] position output signal when said platform is [in an unsafe] at a safe level.

[15] 14. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the condition of said platform output signal transmitted by said means for determining the position of said platform changes when the position of said platform changes between an unsafe level and a safe level.

[16] 15. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said warning means is an audio warning device.

[17] 16. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said warning means is a visual warning device.

[18] 17. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said unsafe level is a platform position which is lower than an entry level position at said vehicle opening.

[19] 18. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said threshold zone has a depth of a pre-defined safe distance.

[20] 19. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim [19] 18 wherein said pre-defined safe distance is not less than eighteen (18) inches.

[21]20. (Once Amended) A threshold warning system for a lift which is used in conjunction with a vehicle having an opening and a floor, the lift including a mounting assembly being mounted on the vehicle floor adjacent to the vehicle opening, an actuating system mounted on the mounting assembly, a platform assembly, and a linking assembly connecting to the actuating system and the platform assembly for moving the platform assembly between an entry level position and a ground level position outside the vehicle and inversely, the threshold warning system comprising:

- a. a sensor means for emitting an infrared beam directly across said vehicle opening for sensing a threshold zone adjacent to said vehicle opening when an object moves into the threshold zone;
- b. a reflector means for mounting adjacent to said mounting assembly and remotely located from said sensor means, [where] whereby said reflector means reflects said

infrared beam back to said sensor means [such that] when said infrared beam is uninterrupted;

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- c. a cam assembly for [determining] monitoring the position of said platform assembly which switches a limit switch when said platform is [in a] at an unsafe level;
- d. a control means having a first input coupled to said limit switch for [determining] detecting the condition of said limit switch, a second input coupled to said sensor means for [determining] detecting the condition of said sensor means, and an output for transmitting an unsafe output signal based on the conditions of said limit switch and said sensor means; and
- e. a warning means coupled to said output of said control means for receiving said unsafe output signal from said control means which in turn activates the warning means to indicate that said platform assembly is [in] at said unsafe level and an object moves into said threshold zone;
- f. whereby said threshold warning system provides warning when an object moves into said threshold zone while said platform assembly is [in] at said unsafe level.

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[22] 21. (Once Amended) The threshold warning system in accordance with Claim [21] 20 wherein said infrared beam is modulated for the purpose of distinguishing the beam from ambient light.

[23] 22. (Once Amended) The threshold warning system in accordance with Claim [21] 20 wherein said cam assembly comprises a cam wheel which [is located] rotates relative to said limit switch and [rotates] in synchronism with the movement of said platform assembly.

[24] 23. (Once Amended) The threshold warning system in accordance with Claim [21] 20 wherein said warning means is an audio warning device.

[25] 24. (Once Amended) The threshold warning system in accordance with Claim [21] 20 wherein said warning means is a visual warning device.

[26] 25. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim [21] 20 wherein said unsafe level is a platform position which is lower than an entry level position at said vehicle opening.

[27] 26. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim [21] 20 wherein said threshold zone has a depth of a pre-defined safe distance.

[28] 27. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim [27] 26 wherein said pre-defined safe distance is not less than eighteen (18) inches.

[29] 28. (Once Amended) A wheelchair lift for use in conjunction with a vehicle having an opening and a floor, the wheelchair lift comprising:

- a. a mounting assembly mounted on said vehicle floor adjacent to said vehicle opening;
- b. an actuating system which is affixed to said mounting assembly and including at least one actuating means;
- c. a platform assembly;
- d. a linking assembly connecting to said actuating system and said platform assembly for moving said platform assembly between an entry level position and a ground level position outside said vehicle and inversely;
- e. a warning system for providing warning when an object moves into a threshold zone while said platform assembly is [in] at an unsafe level, the warning system including a sensor means, a reflector means, a warning means, a platform position [indication] monitoring means, and a control means:

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(i) said sensor means arranged for emitting an infrared beam directly across said vehicle opening to said reflector means which is mounted remotely from said sensor means, [where] whereby said reflector means reflects the infrared beam back to said sensor means [such that] when the infrared beam is uninterrupted for sensing if an object moves into a threshold zone adjacent to said vehicle opening,

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(ii) said platform position [indication] monitoring means arranged for determining the position of said platform assembly and comprising a cam wheel which [is located] rotates relative to a limit switch and [rotates] in synchronism with the movement of said platform assembly, [wherein] whereby the cam wheel changes the condition of the limit switch when said platform assembly is [in] at an unsafe level;

(iii) said control means having a first input coupled to said platform position [indication] monitoring means for receiving a platform signal, a second input coupled to said sensor means for receiving a threshold signal, and an output for transmitting an output signal based on the conditions of said platform signal and said threshold signal; and

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(iv) said warning means coupled to said output of said control means for receiving said output signal from said control means which in turn activates said warning means to indicate [that] when an object moves into said threshold zone while said platform assembly is [in] at said unsafe level;

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f. whereby said threshold warning system of said wheelchair lift provides warning when an object moves into said threshold zone while said platform assembly is [in] at said unsafe level.

[30] 29. (Once Amended) The wheelchair lift in accordance with Claim [29] 28 wherein said infrared beam is modulated for the purpose of distinguishing the beam from ambient light.

[31] 30. (Once Amended) The wheelchair lift in accordance with Claim [29] 28 wherein said warning means is an audio warning device.

[32] 31. (Once Amended) The wheelchair lift in accordance with Claim [29] 28 wherein said warning means is a visual warning device.

[33] 32. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim [29] 28 wherein said unsafe level is a platform position which is lower than an entry level position at said vehicle opening.

[34] 33. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim [29] 28 wherein said threshold zone has a depth of a pre-defined safe distance.

[35] 34. (Once Amended) The warning system in accordance with Claim [34] 33 wherein said pre-defined safe distance is not less than eighteen (18) inches.